

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:**Claims Listing**

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) An electronic system for managing, processing and automating an electronic or digital activity, the system comprising:

a common user interface that includes means for gathering and structuring data relating to ~~things and~~ activities into common database objects that are combinable to form a plurality of types of catalogs, lists, and workflows that are used to conduct electronic business;

wherein said means for gathering and structuring data is included in a secondary interface;

wherein said means for gathering and structuring data further uses a common data format; and

wherein said common data format determines a design of the secondary interface and also ~~an the~~ operating rule for creating, storing and processing data, in the form of ~~intelligent~~ database objects;

wherein the common user interface enables the user to provide who/what information relating to the activity, why/how information relating to the activity, and where/when information relating to the activity, to be input to the system according to said common data format and the operating rule; and

wherein said who/what, why/how and where/when information is input to the system through the secondary interface in a manner that conforms the common database objects to the said common data format and operating rule such that why information + how information = where/when information.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said why information identifies the purpose of the activity, and said how and where/when information identifies details of ~~a the~~ fulfillment process that enables the database objects to achieve the purpose thereof.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising an output mode, wherein, when in said output mode the secondary interface of the system responds according to why information requests to cause said secondary interface in output mode to be automatically populated with information objects related to the why information request.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein a plurality of attributes and communications relating to the ~~an~~ activity or an item are recorded as a composite file object, according to the said common data format and operating rule, and said attributes and communications define that activity or item in such a way ~~work~~ that ~~an~~ the activity can be automated and an item can be ~~meaningfully~~ described.

23. (Currently Amended) An electronic system for managing, processing, and automating electronic or digital activities, the system comprising:

a common user interface that includes means for gathering and structuring data relating to said activities, including a description and meaning of ~~things that are~~ the subject of said activities, through ~~relevant~~ secondary interfaces, into ~~intelligent~~ database objects that are combinable to form catalogs, lists, workflows, and processes, that are used to conduct e-business;

wherein said means for gathering and structuring data is a common data format that is also an the operating rule of the system;

wherein said operating rule is not only used for creating the ~~intelligent~~ database objects, but also for, storing, and processing the ~~intelligent~~ database objects;

wherein the common data format enables the user to provide who/what type information relating to an the activity, why/how information relating to the activity, and where/when information relating to the activity;

wherein the who information identifies the name of the subject of the activity that may be substituted by a number, and the what information identifies the type of the activity or the ~~thing that is the~~ subject of the activity;

wherein said why information identifies the purpose of the activity, the how information and the where/when information identifies details of a the fulfillment process; and

wherein said who/what ~~type~~, why/how and where/when information when processed by the system, according to the operating rule, works so that why information+ how information = where/when information, to achieve the purpose of the ~~said intelligent~~ database objects.

24. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 23, wherein said system further comprises a central clearinghouse for authorizing and authenticating a plurality of users of said system, said central clearinghouse being operable to maintain user identification records and control access for each of said plurality of users.

25. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 24, wherein said system further comprises a common market permitting the users employing the system to advertise and locate propositions of interest and to connect to one another using the system.

26. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 25, wherein at least some of said users are linked to one another and the central clearinghouse and the common market by way of a virtual private network.

27. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 19, wherein said system further comprises a central clearinghouse for authorizing and authenticating a plurality of users of said system, said central clearinghouse being operable to maintain user identification records and control access for each of said plurality of users.

28. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 27, wherein said system further comprises a common market permitting the users employing the system to advertise and locate propositions of interest and to connect to one another using the system.

29. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 28, wherein all said users are linked to one another and the central clearinghouse and the common market by way of a virtual private network.